



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Two Wisconsin students named Presidential Scholars

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster commended two students from Wisconsin for being named 2009 Presidential Scholars.

**Suvai Gunasekaran** of Memorial High School in Madison, and **Philip Streich**, a home-schooled student from Platteville, are among 141 students nationwide who will receive the Presidential Medallion in a White House ceremony in June.

“These two students are representative of the many fine young people who will be graduating from Wisconsin high schools, colleges, and universities this spring,” Burmaster said. “One of the keys to their success was parents who believed in their greatness. Family involvement, along with teachers and mentors, truly support student learning.”

Students chosen as Presidential Scholars were among 3,000 candidates who qualified on the basis of outstanding performance on the ACT or SAT college admissions tests or nomination through the annual Arts Recognition and Talent Search, conducted by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. Candidates were invited to apply, a process that included essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as evidence of leadership, community service, and demonstrated commitment to high ideals. The 29-member White House Commission on Presidential Scholars made the final selection of 141 Presidential Scholars from a pool of 560 semifinalists.

Stephen Guzewski, Gunasekaran’s physics teacher at Memorial High School, and Amanda Streich, Philip Streich’s mother and teacher for Spanish and general studies, will accompany the scholars to the nation’s Capitol and receive the annual Teacher Recognition Award.

The Presidential Scholars program was established by executive order of the president in 1964. Over its 45 years, the program has recognized more than 6,000 of the nation’s top students for their academic and artistic achievement.

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**NOTES:** This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2009\\_48.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2009_48.pdf).